



U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON

# Finance

SENATOR CHUCK GRASSLEY, OF IOWA - CHAIRMAN

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## Grassley Applauds Kick-off of Free Trade Talks With Australia

\_\_\_\_ WASHINGTON – Sen. Chuck Grassley, chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, today said he was pleased that talks on a U.S.-Australia free trade agreement were under way and applauded the creation of the American-Australian Free Trade Agreement Coalition designed to support the agreement.

“There’s no better way for the United States and Australia to reaffirm our historic relationship than through negotiations on a free trade agreement,” Grassley said. “Bilateral investments between our two nations already support thousands of jobs in each country. A free trade agreement will not only strengthen our two economies by increasing financial flows, but also will strengthen the important role that our alliance plays in the world.

“An agreement with Australia can also set the foundation for expanding free trade in the Asia-Pacific region and opens the door to a free trade agreement with New Zealand. I look forward to the prospects that this agreement provides for our farmers and workers and will keep a close eye on the negotiations as they move forward.”